False case of abduction of son of Pak High Commission employee

1703. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matters of concocted false allegation of abduction of son of Pak High Commission Employee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received promises/assurance from Pakistan Government to not repeat such cases in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The Pakistan High Commission informed the Ministry on November 9 that the 19 year old son of a staff member was abducted on November 08, 2005 at 17.15 hrs. by some unknown people travelling in a vehicle and released almost 9 hours later allegedly in a "dazed and traumatised state". Delhi Police investigated the matter. It discovered that the reported incident was a prank by the Pakistani boy with a fellow student, an Indian. The High Commission for Pakistan was accordingly informed through diplomatic channels.

Difficulties in getting passport forms in Punjab

1704. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether charges of passport application forms have been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that people of Punjab are facing difficulties in obtaining passport forms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ease the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no shortage of passport application forms in any part of India including Punjab. Passport applicants can obtain these forms

from Passport Offices, District Passport Cells and designated Speed Post Centres. Further, the forms can also be downloaded free of cost from internet (ttp://passport.nic.in/).

Abduction and murder of Indian Driver in Afghanistan

1705. DR.M.A.M.RAMASWAMY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian driver with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) involved in construction of highways in Afghanistan has been abducted alongwith three Afghan co-workers by the Talibans on 19th November, 2005 and murdered later;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the demand put forth by Talibans to release the Indian driver; and

(c) the measures which had been taken by Goverment for his safe release before he was murdered and also to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Shri Maniyappan Raman Kutty s/o Shri Ramankutty resident of Puthen Veettil, Thekhathil House, P.O. Chingoli, District Alleppey (kerala) holder of official Passport No.O-1116062 issued at New Delhi on October 24,2005, was posted as a driver with Border Roads Organistaion (BRO), on Zaranj-Delaram road construction project in Zaranj (Afghanistan). He was abducted on November 19, 2005 while returning from Gurguri to Minar in Nimroz province of Afghanistan. Three Afghans travelling with him were also abducted. The next day, in a telephone call to a news agency, the Taliban spokesperson claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded the withdrawal of the BRO from Afghanistan within 48 hours. Later, the body of Shri Maniyappan was recovered near Minar on November 23, 2005.

(c) The Goverment of India made every effort possible to seek release of Shri Raman Kutty in cooperation with Afghan authorities. We also worked with our own wide network of contacts in Afghanistan for this purpose. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful.

In order to prevent recurrence of such incidents, Embassy of India in Kabul has already issued a security advisory containing appropriate